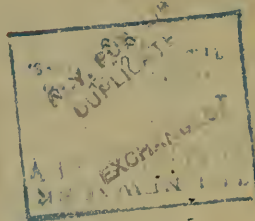


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The Correspondence of
Lord Montague with
General Moultrie.
1781.

☆ MAS. HENRY HAMMOND

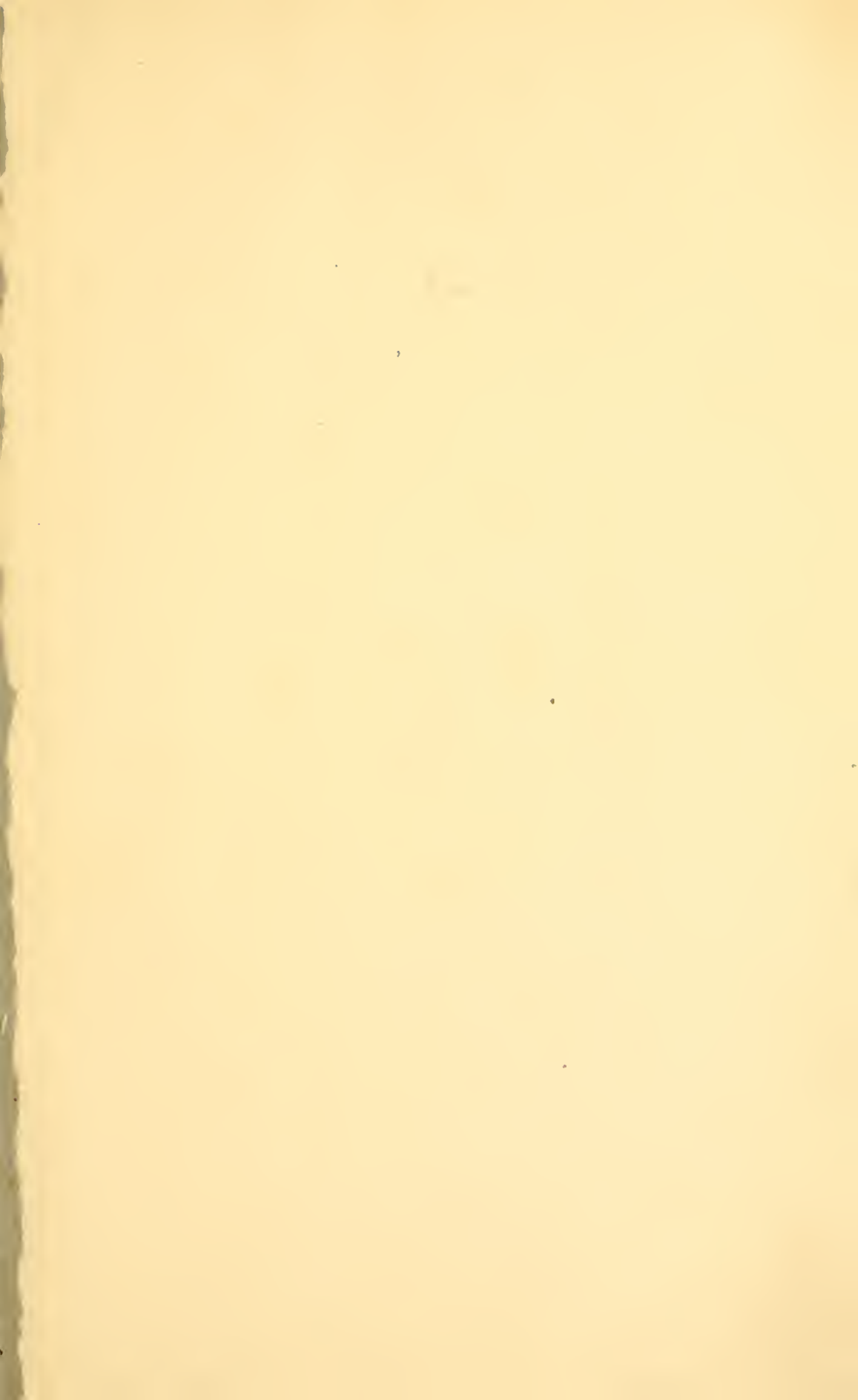




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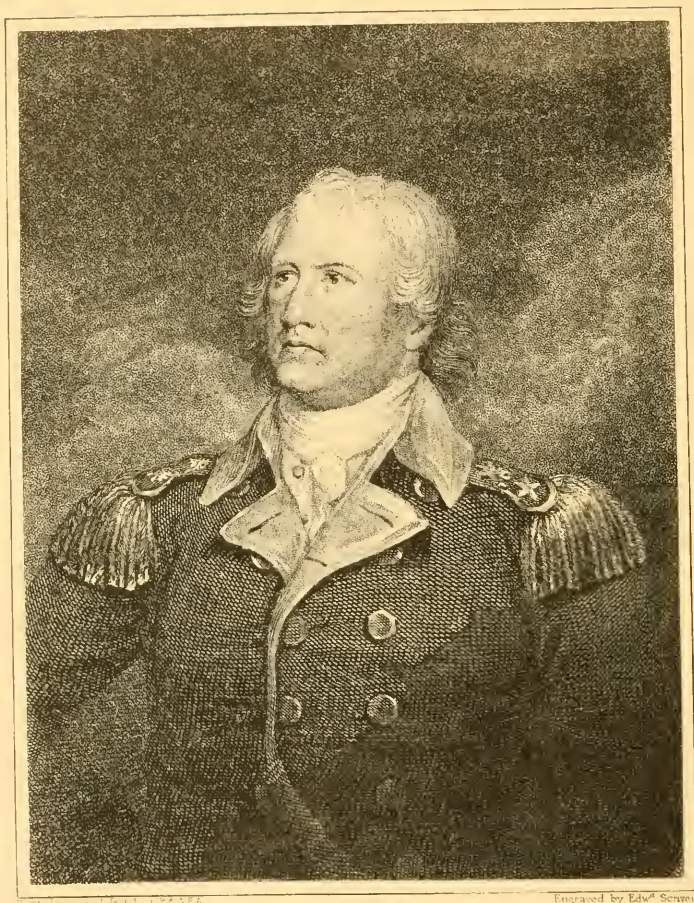
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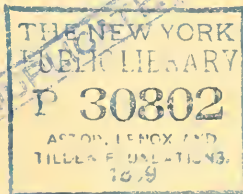
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Engraved by Edw^d Sewell.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM MOULTRIE.

Will^m Moultrie



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The Correspondence of
Lord Montague with
William
General Moultrie.
1781.

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“Where to hide Myself from Myself.”



This edition is prepared to commemorate the 109th
Anniversary of the Victory at Fort Moultrie,

28TH JUNE, 1776,

That a patriot's thought and utterance in the environ-
ment of defeat, and while yet a prisoner of war,
may be preserved to posterity.



CORRESPONDENCE.

Lord Montague to Gen. Moultrie.

CHARLESTOWN, SO. CA.,
February 9th, 1781.

DEAR SIR :



It is a long time since I have had the pleasure of seeing you, but the length of time has not effaced the civilities and marks of friendship I received from you. I

wish much to see you ; you know I have again returned to this country for a short time.

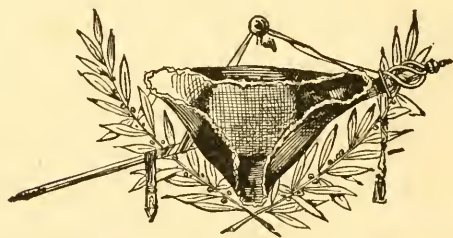
If it is agreeable to you, I will either call upon you or be glad to see you here at No. 57, old Church Street.

I send this by my old servant Fisher.

Your sincere friend,

CHARLES MONTAGUE.

Gen. MOULTRIE.





CHARLESTOWN, So. CA.,

March 11, 1781.

SIR :



SINCERE wish to promote what may be to your advantage, induces me now to write; and the freedom with which we have often conversed makes me hope you will not take amiss what I say. My own principles respecting the commencement of this unfortunate war are well known to you, and, of course, you

can conceive what I mention is out of friendship. You have now fought bravely in the cause of your country for many years, and, in my opinion, fulfilled the duty every individual owes to it. You have had your share of hardships and difficulties, and, if the contest is still to be continued, younger hands should now take the toil from you. You have now a fair opening of quitting that service, with honor and reputation to yourself, by going to Jamaica with me. The world will readily attribute it to the known friendship that has subsisted between us; and by quitting this country for a short time you would avoid any disagreeable conversations, and might return at leisure to take

possession of your estates for yourself and family.

The regiment I am going to command, the only proof I can give you of my sincerity is, that I will quit that command to you with pleasure and serve under you. I earnestly wish I could be the instrument to effect what I propose, as I think it would be a great means towards promoting that reconciliation we all wish for. A thousand circumstances concur to make this a proper period for you to embrace your old acquaintance—my having been formerly Governor in this province, the interest I have with the present commanders. I give you my honor what I write is certainly unknown to the comman-

dant, or to any one else. So shall your answer be if you favor me with one. Think well of me.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES MONTAGUE.

Gen. MOULTRIE.





Gen. Moultrie to Lord Montague.

HADDRELL'S POINT, SO. CA.,
March 12th, 1781.

MY LORD:



RECEIVED yours this morning by Fisher; I thank you for your wish to promote my advantage, but I am much surprised at your proposition. I flattered myself I stood in a more favorable light with you. I shall write with the same freedom with which we used to con-

verse, and doubt not you will receive it with the same candor. I have often heard you express your sentiments respecting this unfortunate war, when you thought the Americans injured; but am now astonished to find you taking an active part against them; though not fighting particularly, on the Continent, yet seducing their soldiers away to enlist in the British service, is nearly similar.

My Lord, you are pleased to compliment me with having fought bravely in my country's cause for many years, and, in your opinion, fulfilled the duty every individual owes to it; but I differ very widely with you in thinking that I have dis-

charged my duty to my country while it is still deluged with blood and overrun with British troops, who exercise the most savage cruelties. When I entered into this contest I did it with the most mature deliberation and with a determined resolution to resign my life and fortune in the cause. The hardships I have gone through I look back upon with the greatest pleasure and honor to myself. I shall continue to go on as I have begun, that my example may encourage the youth of America to stand forth in defence of their rights and liberties. You call upon me now and tell me I have a fair opening of quitting that service with honor and reputation to myself by going with

you to Jamaica. Good God! is it possible that such an idea could arise in the breast of a man of honor? I am sorry you should imagine I have so little regard for my own reputation as to listen to such dishonorable proposals; would you wish to have that man whom you have honored with your friendship play the traitor? Surely not. You say by quitting this country for a short time I might avoid disagreeable conversations, and might return at my own leisure and take possession of my estates for myself and family; but you have forgot to tell me how I am to get rid of the feelings of my injured honest heart, and *where to hide myself from myself*. Could I be guilty of so much

baseness I should hate myself and shun mankind. This would be a fatal exchange from my present situation, with an easy and approved conscience of having done my duty and conducted myself as a man of honor.

My Lord, I am sorry to observe that I feel your friendship much abated, or you would not endeavor to prevail upon me to act so base a part. You earnestly wish you could bring it about, as you think it will be the means of bringing about that reconciliation we all wish for. I wish for a reconciliation as much as any man, but only upon honorable terms. The repossessing my estate, the offer of the command of your regiment,

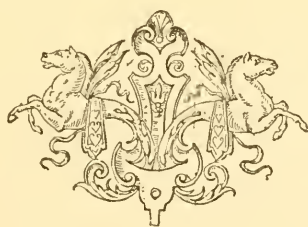
and the honor you propose of serving under me, are paltry considerations to the loss of my reputation; no, not the fee simple of that valuable island of Jamaica should induce me to part with my integrity. My Lord, as you have made one proposal, give me leave to make another, which will be more honorable to us both; as you have an interest with your commanders, I would have you propose the withdrawing the British troops from the Continent of America, allow the independence, and propose a peace; this being done, I will use my interest with my commanders to accept of the terms, and allow Great Britain a free trade with America.

My Lord, I could make one proposal, but my situation as a prisoner circumscribes me within certain bounds; I must, therefore, conclude with allowing you the free liberty to make what use of this you may think proper. Think better of me.

I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

WM. MOULTRIE.

Lord CHARLES MONTAGUE.



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